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# HAWAII'S NAVY NEWS

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## Pearl Harbor tax center opens for business

J03 Sunday Williams  
Staff Writer

Sailors and family members gathered Tuesday in front of the Fleet Family Service Center on Naval Station Pearl Harbor for the annual grand opening of the Navy Tax Center.

Capt. R. Douglas Hughes, Chief of Staff/Commanding Officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, and Lt. Mycah Lee, Tax Officer for Navy Legal Service Office Pacific Detachment, Pearl Harbor (NLSO PAC DET PH), cut the ribbon to officially open the center.

Lee emphasized that her hopes for the center go beyond just increasing the number of Sailors it served compared to last year. She said, "It is all about the people" and explained that

it's the goal of the tax center to make sure that people get the help that they need.

"My goal is to reach as many Sailors and their families as we can to help them save money and get their taxes filed even if it means going to them," Lee said.

Lee and other volunteers understand how busy it can get at the tax center. So, in an effort to save time and long hours of waiting, two computers with volunteers will also be set up on the submarine side of the Naval Station.

Yet, despite the extra computer and volunteers, Lt. Cmdr. Chuck Purnell (JAGC), officer in charge at NLSO PAC DET PH, expects that the center will reach about the same number of people as last year.

"Each year is about the same as far

as how many people we serve and how many forms we prepare. The only thing that might fluctuate is the dollars worth of returns filed for individuals," said Purnell.

More than 8,000 forms were prepared last year, and more than 4,200 Sailors and family members were helped by the tax center.

Although the tax center is a function of NLSO, another nearby location was deemed more beneficial for tax services. Because its primary mission is to serve Sailors and family members, and because it's only a parking lot away from the NLSO detachment, the FFSC was chosen as the tax center's base of operations for the second year in a row.

Purnell primarily credits the Director of Family Service Center,



J03 Sunday Williams photo

Capt. R. D. Hughes, commanding officer of Naval Station Pearl Harbor and chief of staff for Navy Region Hawaii, talks taxes with Carol Evans at the FFSC office after the ribbon cutting ceremony Tuesday.

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## Navy-wide quality of life survey coming soon

Navy Personnel Command  
Public Affairs

Approximately 17,000 randomly selected Navy men and women will be asked for their inputs on quality-of-life (QOL) issues in a questionnaire they will receive this month. The survey is administered by the Navy Personnel Research, Studies, and Technology (NPRST) department of the Navy Personnel Command (NPC) in Millington, Tenn.

The Navy QOL survey asks about areas of Navy life critical to Sailors and their families. Officials hope to get feedback from Sailors on a wide range of topics including their career, shipboard life, housing options and preparedness.

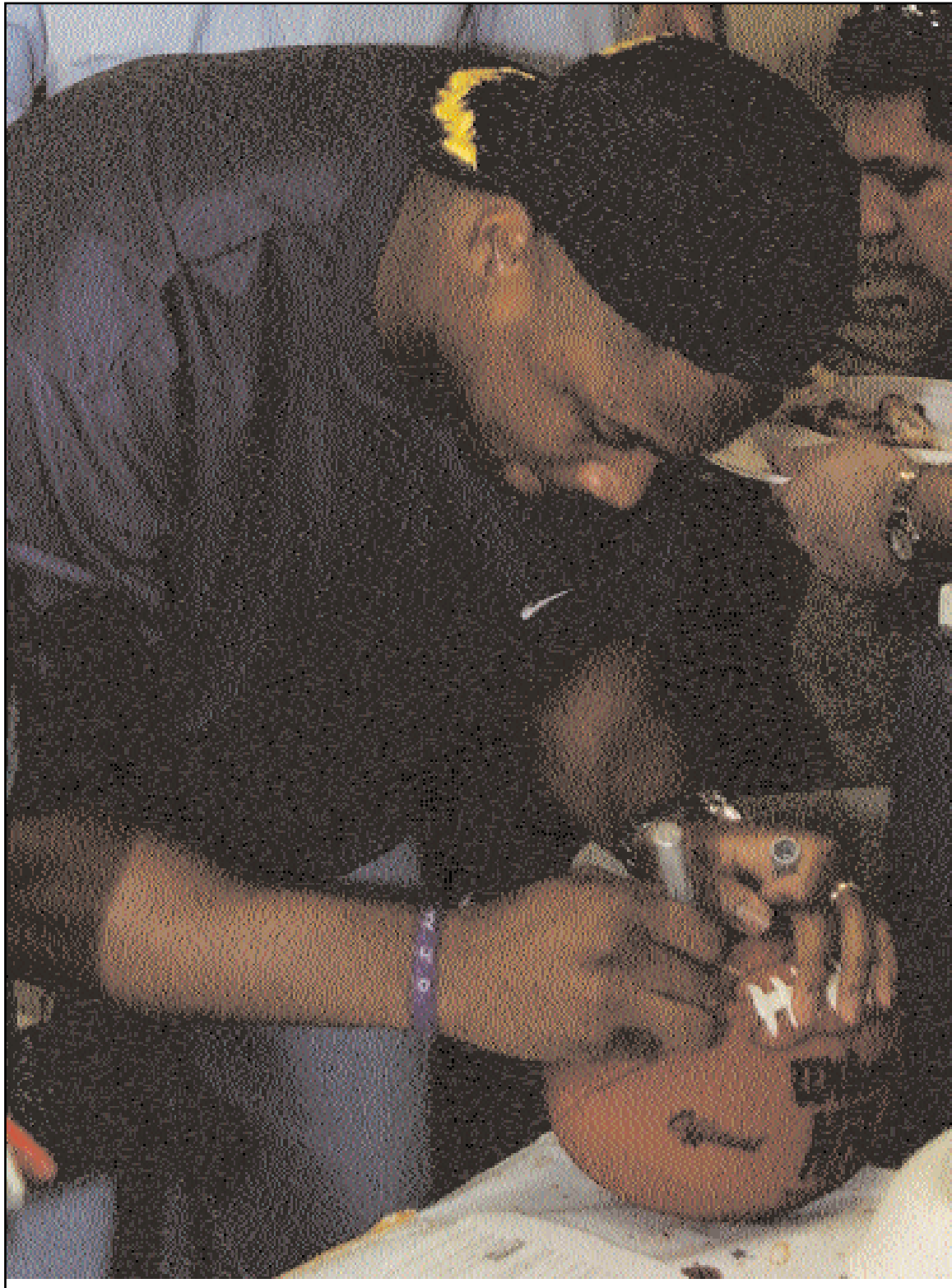
NPRST's predecessor, Navy Personnel Research and Development Center, first administered the survey in 1999. The biennial survey results help policy planners determine programs that need to be developed or altered to meet fleet needs.

The Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr., stressed the importance of the survey. "We want to hear from Sailors. The information they provide when completing this survey will help us focus our quality-of-life efforts to ensure we do the right things for them and their families. As with everything we do, each Sailor's personal input is essential to enhancing the product for the entire team."

Sailors chosen to participate are scientifically selected to provide a representative sample of the Navy. It is important that each Sailor who receives a survey complete and return it, because each individual represents not only their individual views, but the views of their peers as well. Not responding to the survey means the views of many Sailors will not be represented in policy reviews and changes.

Sailors selected to receive the survey will be sent a notification letter approximately two weeks prior to the survey's arrival. This year the survey can be completed in two ways: either the standard paper-and-pencil method or on the Web site, which is included in the survey. Questions concerning the survey should be directed to NPRST, at (901) 874-2224 or DSN 882-2224.

## Super Bowl on O'Kane



J02 Daniel J. Calderon photo

Troy Vincent, of the Philadelphia Eagles, autographs a football during his visit to USS O'Kane (DDG 77) just minutes before the start of Super Bowl 36. See related story on A-5.

## Navy Region Hawaii salutes African American History Month

CTRC Shelby  
Sutherland-Aultman  
Navy Region Hawaii EO advisor

The month of February is dedicated each year to the history of African-Americans. Department of Defense (DoD) observances provide ideal opportunities for Navy Region Hawaii Sailors to educate themselves and others on the rich military history of African-Americans. The United States Navy has its share of fascinating stories detailing the contributions of African-Americans though little of it has been documented until recently.

African-American contributions to Navy history actually began before the United States was a republic though it was not until Nov. 17, 2000 that Navy officials added over 8,000 African-American Sailors to the roll call of honored Civil War veterans (this list includes more than a dozen women). Military historians have now proven that the actual number of African-American Medal of Honor recipients was eight.

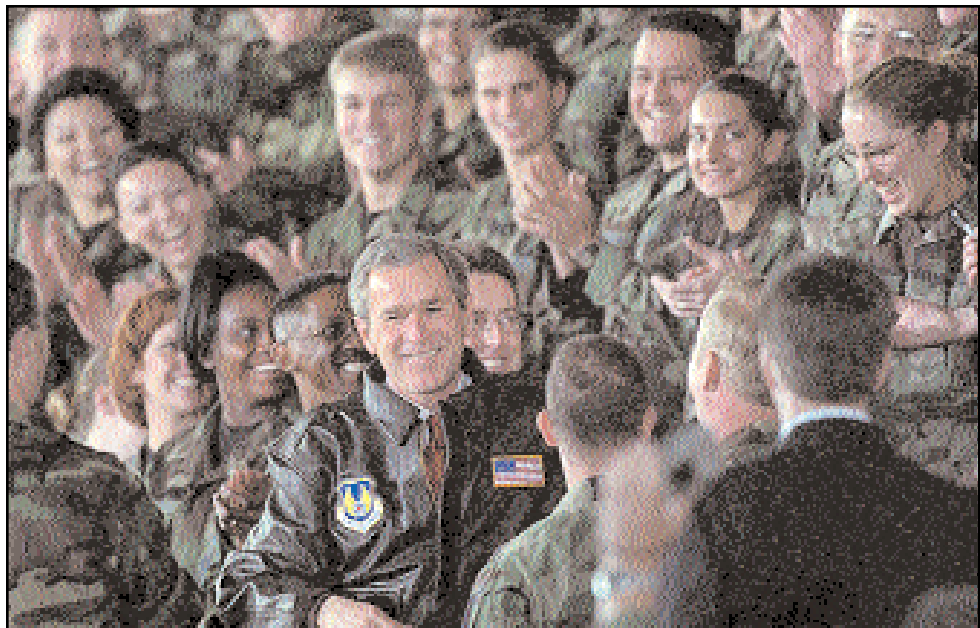
Military records show little documentation of African-Americans serving in the Navy until World War II. DoD historians believe this information is hard to find because official records were not categorized by race until prior to World War I.

We are, however, learning of brave historical acts of African-American Sailors every day. Doris "Dorie" Miller's contributions at Pearl Harbor may be the most familiar to many, but there are many others.

For instance, in the Continental Navy, some evidence exists of African-Americans serving on gunboats in the navies of several states. At this point in time, however, their patriotic service and heroism seem to have been overlooked. They were even returned to a life of slavery after their "services" were no longer needed. For example, "A Pictorial History of the Negro in America" documents an account of a Negro (one of many period "labels" of African-Americans), Capt. Mark Starlin of the Virginia

▼ See AFRICAN-AMERICAN, A-2

## A NATION AT WAR



Paul Morse photo

President Bush announced his proposal for the 2003 budget before an audience made up of airmen at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

## Military, defense top priority for 2003 budget

Linda D. Kozaryn  
American Forces Press Service

Now that the United States has put the Taliban out of business, President George W. Bush says the military's next objective in Afghanistan is clear.

"We have to run down Al Qaeda and the rest of the terrorists - and maybe give them a free trip to Guantanamo Bay (Cuba)," he told several hundred cheering Air Force personnel today at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

He said the fight against terrorism requires a strong military. "We must keep it strong with new investments in equipment and we must keep it strong by attracting and retaining the best and the

brightest in our country," he said. "That's why I've asked Congress to set the military budget as the No. 1 priority and fully fund my budget request."

Bush is asking for a fiscal 2003 defense budget of \$379.4 billion, an increase of \$48 billion over the fiscal 2002 budget. The request funds the war on terrorism, increases defense funds spent on homeland security and begins financing transformation for the U.S. military to face the challenges of the 21st century.

The war in Afghanistan has demonstrated the value of precision-guided weapons. "The budget I submit makes it clear we need more of them," the president said.

"We need to be agile, quick to move," he said. "We need to replace

aging aircraft and get ready to be able to defend freedom with the best equipment possible."

America's men and women in uniform deserve the best weapons, equipment and training, he said, and that's why he's asked for the largest increase in the defense budget in a generation. His budget request also includes a military pay raise.

Ridding Afghanistan of Al Qaeda terrorists and their Taliban supporters is only the first step in the war against global terrorism, the president said.

"Another objective is to prevent regimes that sponsor terror from threatening America or our friends

▼ See BUDGET, A-3